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Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 /045 W
---------- 101113
R 220850Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4845
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW, SU
SUBJ: GERMAN METALWORKERS UNION PRESIDENT LODERER ON RDCEPT TRIP TO UNITED STATES, PLANNED TRIP TO THE USSR

1. AT LUNCH JULY 21, GERMAN METALWORKERS UNION PRESIDENT LODERER EXPRESSED HIGHEST SATISFACTION WITH HIS WEEKLONG TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES, FROM WHICH HE RETURNED JULY 18. TRIP CONSISTED OF TWO PARTS: (A) AS GERMAN TRADE UNION PREIDIENT IN CONTACT WITH AMERICAN UNIONS AND TO OBSERVE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, AND (B) AND MEMBER OF THE PARTY FOR CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S STATE VISIT.

2. LODERER WAS VISABLY MOVED BY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND WHITE HOUSE DINNER AND TO PARTICIPATE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. HIS FRIENDLY FEELING TOWARD THE UNITED STATES WAS OBVIOUSLY REINFORCED.

3. LODERER WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE WORKING OF THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY HAS SAFELY WEATHERED THE DISSENSIONS OF THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HAS REGAINED ITS SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND PURPOSE, AND IS PREPARED TO RESUME ITS LEADING ROLE IN THE WEST.

4. ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT WAS THAT, AT THE LAST MINUTE, AFL/CIO
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PRESIDENT MENAY HAD TO CANCEL A MEETING FOR "PERSONAL REASONS."

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ON THE OTHER HAND, LODERER HAD SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH UAW PRESIDENT WOODCOCK AND OTHER U.S. UNION LEADERS.

5. LODERER WILL MAKE A TEN-DAY TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION (MOSCOW AND SOME OTHER CITIES TO BE DETERMINED) IN LATE AUGUST AS THE GUEST OF THE SOVIET METALWORKERS, WHO ARE ANGLING FOR AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER IN MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS CONFEDERATION, OF WHICH LODERER IS PRESIDENT. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TRIP AND HAS PROMISED TO TELL US OF IT UPON HIS RETURN. HOWEVER, HE SAYS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED TO REJECT THE SOVIET REQUEST FOR AN OBSERVER STATUS TO MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS CONFEDERATION, AND TO STICK WITH THE PRESENT POLICY OF ONLY BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIET LABOR UNIONS. LEHMANN

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